

Docket No.: SYN-8312

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: March 15, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/728,389  
Applicant : Kevin Smith et al.  
Filed : December 5, 2003  
Title : Tissue Retractor and Method for Using the Retractor  
Art Unit : to be assigned  
Examiner : to be assigned

Docket No. : SYN-8312  
Customer No. : 24131

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98 copies of the following patents and/or publications are submitted herewith:

United States Patent No. 6,494,888 B1 (Laufer et al.), dated December 17, 2002;

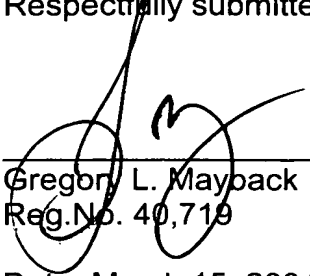
United States Patent Application Publication US 2001/0056282 A1 (Sonnenschein et al.), dated December 27, 2001;

International publication WO 00/78227 A1 (Laufer et al.), dated December 28, 2000;

International Publication WO 03/099137 A2 (Cerier et al.), dated December 4, 2003.

As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are submitted for any application filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



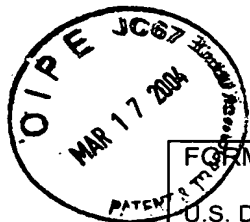
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Date: March 15, 2004

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FORM PTO-1449 (SUBSTITUTE)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEINFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  
(37 CFR 1.98(b))

Attorney Docket No.:

SYN-8312

Applic. No.

10/728,389

Applicant

Kevin Smith et al.

Filing Date

December 5, 2003

Group Art Unit

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		PATENT NO.	DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE
	A	6,494,888 B1	12/17/02	Laufer et al.			
	B	2001/0056282 A1	12/27/01	Sonnenschein et al.			
	C						
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						
	H						
	I						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSL. YES   NO
	J	00/78227 A1	12/28/00	WIPO			X
	K	03/099137 A2	12/04/03	WIPO			X
	L						
	M						
	N						

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	O	
	P	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.